

Message Text

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TO AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI NIACT IMMEDIATE
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C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 108248

STADIS////////////////////////////////////
EXDIS FOR THE AMBASSADOR

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: TECH, ENRG, IN

SUBJECT: PENDING MEETING WITH PRIME MINISTER
REF: NEW DELHI 6631

1. AS YOU KNOW, WE ARE IN THE PROCESS OF REVIEWING WHAT STEPS SHOULD BE TAKEN IN OUR NUCLEAR DIALOGUE WITH INDIA OVER THE NEXT MONTH OR TWO AND THUS YOUR MEETING WITH THE PRIME MINISTER SHOULD BE CONFINED TO A REVIEW OF EXISTING POSITIONS AND TO EXPLORING HIS VIEWS. YOU SHOULD INFORM DESAI THAT THE PRESIDENT HAS SIGNED THE EXECUTIVE ORDER OVERRIDING THE NRC'S ACTION OF APRIL 20 AND THAT NOTIFICATION HAS BEEN TRANSMITTED TO CONGRESS. (TEXT OF LETTER AND EXECUTIVE ORDER SENT USINFO-STORY LEAD ON WIRELESS
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FILE, BOTH APRIL 27). WE ARE HOPEFUL THAT THERE WILL BE NO DIFFICULTIES THERE AND THAT SHIPMENT CAN TAKE PLACE IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING THE 60 DAY WAITING PERIOD WHICH THE LAW REQUIRES, I.E. BETWEEN LATE JUNE AND MID-JULY.

2. WE HAVE INCORPORATED DIRECTLY THE LANGUAGE WHICH YOU PROPOSED IN NEW DELHI 6372 INTO THE DEPARTMENT'S SUGGESTED

REPLY FROM THE PRESIDENT TO THE PRIME MINISTER'S LETTER OF MARCH 27, THE RESPONSE TO WHICH HAS BEEN DELAYED PENDING THE OUTCOME OF THE NRC DECISION. THIS WILL GO TO THE NSC

TODAY. THE FULL TEXT OF THIS RELEVANT SECTION FOLLOWS:

QUOTE -- I CAN IMAGINE THAT THE NRC'S INABILITY TO REACH A DECISION ON THE LICENSE FOR THE SHIPMENT OF ENRICHED URANIUM DUE FOR TARAPUR HAS CAUSED CONSTERNATION IN INDIA. THE NRC'S ACTION IS CONTRARY TO THE STRONG RECOMMENDATION I MADE SUPPORTING A SHIPMENT FOLLOWING OUR CONVERSATIONS IN NEW DELHI AND MY ADDRESS TO YOUR PARLIAMENT IN JANUARY. ACCORDINGLY I AM SUBMITTING TO CONGRESS AN EXECUTIVE ORDER OVERRIDING THE NRC'S DECISION. THIS ORDER MUST LIE BEFORE CONGRESS FOR 60 DAYS BEFORE IT ENTERS INTO EFFECT, WITH SHIPMENT TAKING PLACE IMMEDIATELY THEREAFTER. LET ME RE-ASSURE YOU OF MY COMMITMENT TO GETTING THIS SHIPMENT TO YOU AND OF RESOLVING OUR DIFFERENCES ON NON-PROLIFERATION POLICY. IN THIS CONNECTION, LET ME ALSO ADD THAT, AS REPORTS FOLLOWING SECRETARY VANCE'S RECENT TALKS IN MOSCOW MAKE CLEAR, WE CONTINUE TO SEEK TO PUSH FOR A SIGNIFICANT SALT II AGREEMENT WITH THE USSR AS WELL AS FOR A COMPREHENSIVE TEST BAN. CLEARLY THE MAJOR NUCLEAR WEAPONS STATES MUST TAKE THE LEAD IN REDUCING THE DANGERS OF VERTICAL PROLIFERATION AND IN INSTITUTING PROCEDURES FOR EVENTUAL NUCLEAR DISARMAMENT. I APPRECIATE THE EMPHASIS YOU HAVE PUT ON THIS AND WANT YOU TO KNOW THAT WE ARE EN-CONFIDENTIAL

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DEAVORING TO DO OUR PART. END QUOTE. LANGUAGE ABOVE, OF COURSE, HAS NOT RECEIVED NSC OR PRESIDENTIAL APPROVAL BUT IT PROVIDES THEMES WHICH YOU MAY FIND USEFUL IN YOUR CONVERSATION WITH DESAI, PLACING SPECIAL STRESS ON OUR INTEREST IN NOT LETTING THE CURRENT IMBROGLIO OVER TARAPUR OBSCURE OUR LARGER OBJECTIVE. YOU MAY ALSO TELL DESAI THAT IF HE BELIEVES IT USEFUL WE ARE PREPARED TO HOLD OFFICIAL LEVEL TALKS PRIOR TO JUNE 13.

3. DEPENDING ON THE COURSE OF YOUR CONVERSATION, YOU MAY WISH TO POINT OUT THAT THE NRC DECISION AND ANY FLAK THAT MAY ARISE IN CONGRESS DURING THE 60 DAY NOTIFICATION PERIOD OBVIOUSLY REFLECT STRONG VIEWS WHICH THE PRIME MINISTER IS ALSO LIKELY TO ENCOUNTER IN HIS MEETINGS ON THE HILL WHEN HE VISITS WASHINGTON IN JUNE. MORE IN THE NATURE OF FLAGGING THEM FOR HIS ATTENTION RATHER THAN DIRECTLY SEEKING ASSURANCES AT THIS POINT, YOU MAY WISH TO NOTE THAT TWO BASIC QUESTIONS WILL CENTER ON THE USE OF U.S.- SUPPLIED NUCLEAR MATERIAL FOR NUCLEAR EXPLOSIVE PURPOSES AND ON THE FUTURE STATUS OF IAEA SAFEGUARDS ON TARAPUR WERE THE BILATERAL COOPERATION AGREEMENT TO BE TERMINATED.

4. THERE HAS BEEN SOME CONGRESSIONAL AND PRESS ATTENTION TO DESAI'S APRIL 24 REMARKS IN PARLIAMENT ABOUT RECIPROCAL INSPECTION REQUIREMENTS. YOU MAY WISH TO POINT OUT

THAT THE UNITED STATES HAS OFFERED TO PLACE UNDER INTERNATIONAL SAFEGUARDS ALL NON-MILITARY NUCLEAR FACILITIES IN THE U.S. WHILE THESE HAVE NOT BEEN IMPLEMENTED YET THEY WILL BE OVER THE NEXT YEAR.

5. WE DO NOT BELIEVE YOU SHOULD TAKE UP THE QUESTION OF HEAVY WATER IN YOUR MEETING PENDING A DECISION ON HOW TO PROCEED WITH OVERALL NUCLEAR DIALOGUE WITH INDIA.

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6. WE ANTICIPATE THAT THE TEXTS OF THE STATEMENTS OF THE NRC COMMISSIONERSON THEIR APRIL20 DECISION WILL REACH YOU SHORTLY IN THE EVENT DESAI OR OTHER OFFICIALS EXPRESS AN INTEREST IN SEEING EXACTLY WHAT GROUNDS WERE CITED. VANCE

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